

The Tudors

Post-session Reading and Vocab (lower)

Read the following extract from a BBC article, then discuss the questions below:

Heroic Henry or Horrible Henry?

Henry VIII became king in 1509. His father left him lots of money. He was a **glamorous** Prince who loved music, sports and languages. He wanted to be the greatest English king ever.

In 1536 he joined Wales with England, and five years later he said he was King of Ireland.

Henry VIII is most famous for divorcing his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, because she could not give him a male **heir**, and then marrying five times more!

Henry VIII and religion

Henry said that he, not the Pope, was the Head of the Church in England. Although Henry remained a Catholic to the end of his life, this was the beginning of the Church of England. Later, Henry used his new power to close down the **monasteries** and take their land and money. This made many people unhappy, and there was a **rebellion**. Henry killed the rebels brutally.

A harsh and brutal king?

Later, Henry had the power to make any law he wanted. Near the end of his reign Henry became more and more brutal. He cut his enemies' heads off and **burned** Protestants **at the stake**. In the past, historians said that Henry was the start of a 'new monarchy' and that he made 'a revolution in government'. Modern historians say that this is too simple. Henry was very powerful, but in many ways he ruled like a medieval king, with lots of help and advice from his **nobles**.

Discussion

Do you think that Henry was a good or bad king? What makes you think this?

Vocabulary

Find these words in the text. What do you think they mean? Write your guesses in the table.

glamorous	
heir	
monastery	
rebellion	

burned at the stake	
nobles	